

# SOLIHULL

United Reformed Church

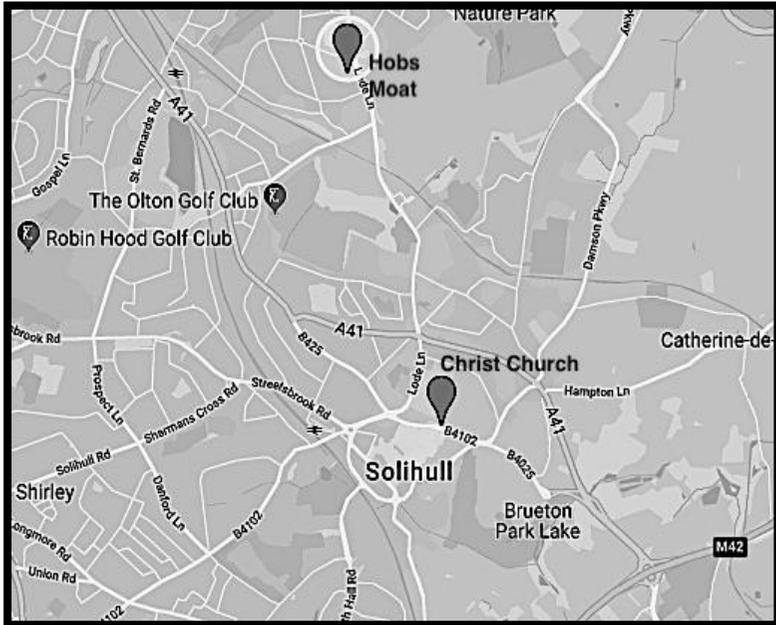
Christ Church - Hobs Moat – Olton

## April 2019 Newsletter

*Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

***Ephesians 4 : 31 - 32***





## **SOLIHULL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

Solihull URC has united three congregations from Olton, Hobs Moat and Christ Church (town centre). We retain premises in Hobs Moat and at Christ Church. Sunday worship is focussed in the town centre, but we seek to witness in all three communities

We share our mission with other Churches and in partnership with others in the community. We invite you to join us as we seek to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

**[www.solihullurc.org.uk](http://www.solihullurc.org.uk)**

**[www.centralsolihullchurches.org.uk](http://www.centralsolihullchurches.org.uk)**

## **LEADERSHIP TEAM**

**VACANT - Minister**

**Gordon Justham - Church Secretary & Elder**

**Chris Harman - Treasurer & Elder**

**Linda Faber - Mission Enabler & Lettings Administration**

**Maureen Butler - Elder (worship & prayer, charities, social activities)**

**Trixie Harman - Elder (Youth & Children)**

**Barrie Jones - Elder (Property, Health & Safety)**

**Elaine Jones - Elder (Administration, Data protection, Catering)**

**Jackie Justham - Elder (charities, social activities)**

**Gordon Laurie – Elder**

Areas of special responsibility are listed in brackets.

All Elders have responsibility for pastoral care.

Great is Thy faithfulness.

As we move through Lent towards Easter we remember Jesus' suffering and that he died to save us all. In my study I have a book, written by Pam Rhodes, with comments about some of her favourite hymns and I thought that I would share the following with you. I included the hymn "Great is Thy Faithfulness" (Mission Praise 200, Rejoice & Sing 96) in the service on 24 March.

Thomas Obadiah Chisholm was born in a log cabin in Kentucky to a family he spoke of as "dirt poor". His only education came from the little country school where his learning was elementary but his thirst for knowledge stood him in good stead because at the age of 16 he was made a teacher in the same school without ever leaving it. At the age of 28 he found a faith that made sense to him and in 1903 he was ordained as a Methodist minister in Scottsville. Thomas had never been a physically strong man and the sheer hard work of having to serve his congregation overwhelmed him and he left his ministry within one year. He moved to Indiana and became an insurance salesman but he was passionate about hymn writing. He went on to write over 1200 hymns and poems and he is quoted as saying "I have greatly desired that each hymn or poem might have some definite message to the hearts for whom it is written".

We are often moved by special moments in our lives when we feel very keenly God's presence and goodness. At moments like that, we might find ourselves thanking God with the words of one of Thomas's best known hymns "Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father". He said he wasn't prompted to write it through one shining moment of gratitude but by an ongoing sense of amazement that every morning he was reassured by the faithfulness of God. He felt that God's constant care had brought him through many bad times.

We all have periods in our lives when troubles seem to weigh us down. At the time we feel isolated, desperate and uncertain where to turn. So often though, with the benefit of hindsight, we are able to see that,

although we may have lost sight of God, he never left our side. Thomas certainly came to that conclusion throughout his long life – he was 93 when he died in 1960. Throughout it all he felt that God not only heard his prayers but also answered them according to his own will. God’s faithful presence gave Thomas courage, hope and purpose.

*Father, sometimes life overwhelms us.*

*We feel swamped, inadequate and without direction.*

*Help us to remember that you are with us in those dark times*

*With the same compassion and understanding*

*With which you encourage us always.*

*May we never cease to be thankful for your faithfulness to us*

*And devote all we are to being steadfast and faithful to you.*

*Amen*

## **DIARY FOR APRIL**

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup>, 10am:** Moments

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2pm:** Hobs Moat Wednesday Club

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>, 10am:** Tots & Tales

**2pm:** Singing for Pleasure @ Hobs Moat

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>, 10am:** Holy Communion (Lent 5) – Ian Carnell

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup>, 10am:** Moments

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>, 10am:** Tots & Tales

**2pm:** Singing for Pleasure @ Hobs Moat

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>, 10am:** Worship (Palm Sunday) – Gordon Justham

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup>, 10am:** Moments

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>, 10am:** Holy Communion (Maundy Thursday) – Ian Carnell (Meeting Place)

**2pm:** Singing for Pleasure @ Hobs Moat

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>, 10am:** Holy Communion (Easter Sunday) – Rev Steve Faber

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10am:** Moments

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10:30am:** Messy Church

**10:30am:** Hobs Moat Neighbourhood Coffee Morning

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>, 2pm:** Singing for Pleasure @ Hobs Moat

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>, 10am:** Worship (Café Style) – Linda Faber

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup>, 10am:** Moments



### **EASTER BREAKFAST**

What better way to start your Easter Sunday than to join our Church family for Easter Breakfast. The cold buffet served in a warm atmosphere will be available between 8.30am and 9.30am in the café before the Service at 10am.

Please come along and bring family and friends all are most welcome.

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP**

Light supper included. Please sign up for catering purposes.

### **JOB ADVICE**

Every Monday morning from 10.30am @ Christ Church (Story Room). If you know anyone in need of support or advice with CVs etc. let them know about this or speak to Trixie Harman.

## **FRESH FROM THE WORD: THE BIBLE FOR A CHANGE**

It is time to order the 2019 edition of this helpful IBRA book which will inspire your reading of the Bible in a changing world. It is led by theologians, scholars, creative writers, church leaders and activists from around the world, and offers notes, prayers and suggestions for further thought for every day of the year. It will be approx. £10. If you would like a copy, please contact Marian Batten (07855 516687) or Irene Bound (0121 449 6367).

## **SUNDAY DUTIES**

The response to the recent plea for more volunteers to come forward to carry out some of the Sunday duties was a very pleasant success. Several members put their names down for the first time and there was little difficulty in covering the following months. Now I think there are some folk who are happy to do some of the duties but do not manage to get their name down in good time. I would ask these folk to try to get into the habit of looking at the table at the back of the Church every week. In addition to the rotas, there is usually plenty of other interesting material - it is worth a look. **Alan**

## **HOBBS MOAT COFFEE MORNINGS**

Dates for Tuesday Coffee Mornings at Hobs Moat from 10.30am until 12 noon.

- 23 April
- 7 May
- 21 May
- 4 June
- 18 June

Hobs Moat Coffee Morning on 9th April has been cancelled.  
All are welcome for a cuppa and chat.  
Anne and Annette

## **LEPROSY MISSION**

The final total raised for the Leprosy Mission was £340.08. Many thanks once again to all those who generously supported this charity.

**Sue Plant**

## **GIFT AID**

One source of income we have not pursued since the joining together of the three churches, is the tax refund from gift aid contributions. Since we are a 'new charity' we need to action this. It is not a straight forward process, hence the reason for the delay. Our weak financial performance has spurred us onto rectifying this shortcoming.

There are some Gift Aid forms on the table at the back of the church. These are for taxpayers, and just require names, addresses, a signature and a date.

A few points...

- Gift aid can be claimed going back up to 4 years. I have the records going back to the joining of the three churches.
- If a husband and wife both have Freewill envelopes, and only one of you pay tax, then the tax payer can include the non-taxpayer's contribution in their return.

If you are unclear about anything please come and see me. **Chris Harman**

## **CHRISTIAN AID SUNDAY - MAY 12TH**

We will be having a speaker from Christian Aid and Rita's Cell Group will be leading the service. Please come and hear more about Christian Aid's important work.



**CHRISTIAN AID COFFEE MORNING  
SOLIHULL METHODIST  
SATURDAY 11TH MAY**

*“Will you be taking part in Christian Aid Week 2019 to raise money to support people living in poverty worldwide?”*

As in previous years Solihull URC will be manning the bookstall. There will be collecting boxes at the back of the church and in the ‘nattery’ for donations of paperback books (no hardback books please). We would like help setting up the stall and manning it during the morning, so if you could spare an hour to help please let me know as many hands make light work.

**Christian Aid House Collection**

As part of Christian Aid week we will again be supporting their fund raising with a door to door collection. Each year the number of volunteers for delivering and collecting the Christian Aid envelopes becomes fewer and fewer. Therefore we have been unable to collect from all our allocated roads in Central Solihull. Can you offer your time to make a difference and increase the number of roads we collect from?

If you would like to know how you can help or would like to know more please come and have a chat with me.

Thank you. **Myles Ensor**

## **UPDATES FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

Do you know you can send your old computer toner cartridges to Christian Aid? They send them on for recycling and receive £1 for each cartridge. Pick up a plastic envelope from the shelf at the back of church and send your cartridges free of charge. This is an on-going scheme and is not just for Christian Aid week, so keep on collecting.

For the last couple of years there has been a calendar on the noticeboard at the back of church. With no minister it is especially important that everyone puts their events and activities on this calendar to aid communications (Mark was pretty good at knowing what was going on). Please also check it before planning events to try to minimise disappointment when clashes occur.

Solihull Churches Action on Homelessness (SCAH) give out emergency packages of items for people who have nothing who are moving in to accommodation. There are about 100 items in each pack such as kitchenware, bathroom ware and bedding. These all need purchasing by volunteers. Are you someone who can do some shopping on behalf of SCAH. Please see Linda or Bridget if you might be able to give some time for this project.

Please make sure you have picked up the sheet with the dates and details of all the events over Lent and Easter (on the table at the back of the pews). The Maundy Thursday 'meal' with communion, and the Easter Breakfast have sign-up sheets to help those who are catering for the events. Please make sure you have added your name to the lists, we would love to see you there.

Lent Bible discussion groups - Tuesdays at 11am in the Story Room or 8pm at 22 Ferndale Road. Finishes 10th April.

Lent Lunches - Wednesdays 10-1.30pm Bread and soup in the café.  
Donations to Christian Aid. Please come along and invite friends too.  
Finishes 11th April.

Schools work at Yew Tree Primary week beginning 8th April – could you help with a lesson or two? Please Speak to Linda Faber.

Good Friday - Please get involved with Churches Together activities in Olton or the Town Centre.

Messy Church - Tuesday 23rd April. Can you help with this event or bring along children or neighbours with you?

### **POSTAGE STAMPS**

Many of you used to bring your old postage stamps to Church for Sheila Durant to send to a Leprosy Mission.

I believe that so far no one has picked up the baton since Sheila has been unable to attend our services, so I am suggesting we should start collecting again and send them to the RNIB - the Royal National Institute for the Blind. They will provide all that we need for the collection and the despatch to their Head Office in post-free envelopes.

There are three rules they would like us to follow: -

- To trim the stamps with approximately 1 cm of the envelope left around the stamp.
- Not to collect the large PO printed labels, nor any pre-printed stamps.
- To separate British and Foreign stamps.

We can all start with the Christmas card envelopes! **Judith Kembery**



## **ABBEY-CWM-HIR, WALES**

**Thursday 18th April**

Within a setting of breathtaking beauty, history and romance, The Hall, with its 12 acres overlooking the ruins of a 12th century Cistercian abbey, is listed as one of Wales' finest examples of Victorian Gothic Revival architecture. Bought in 1997 10 years have been spent on its restoration. Each of the 52 rooms contains their original features and they are bursting with interior design ideas. With so much to see inside there will be little time to explore the grounds with its walled garden, lake and waterfall and many other features

**We have been asked to bring slippers as the rooms are carpeted.**

There is no restaurant as such although drinks and cake are available so you may wish to bring your own picnic.

All trips will start at 8.30 prompt from West Warwicks Sports and Social Club in Grange Road and should be booked by ringing Val on 0121 706 9687 at least one week before the trip.

Cancellation charges will apply and the cost for this trip will be no more than £34. A tip for the driver is included.

**David Argall**



## **WATERPERRY GARDENS, OXFORDSHIRE**

**Thursday 16th May**

Waterperry Gardens have been delighting visitors for years with 8 acres of historic and inspirational gardens, featuring a 200 foot herbaceous border along with rose and formal gardens, a lily canal and a riverside walk. In addition there is a plant shop, Art-Action Gallery and a Gift Barn.

The Rural Life Museum is packed with quirky ephemera and the Saxon church has original 13th century stained glass windows.

The tea shop serves hot and cold lunches, afternoon teas and cakes.

Both trips will start at 8.30 prompt from West Warwicks Sport and Social Club in Grange Road and should be booked by ringing Val on 0121 706 9687 at least one week before the trip.

Cancellation costs will apply and the cost for Waterperry will be no more than £27 all in including a tip for the driver.

**David Argall**



## Tickets on sale now

Alan Bennett's 'The Wind in the Willows', with enchanting songs, is a delightful adaptation, of Kenneth Grahame's classic tale of river-bank animals with a contemporary slant.

The wealthy 'Toad' finds himself in prison after stealing a motor car but manages to escape, but not before Toad Hall, his pride and joy, has been overrun by the wicked Weasels. Thanks to the efforts of his kind and concerned friends Mole, Rat and Badger, however, all ends happily, after an exciting battle to regain Toad's home.

Venture with us down the riverbank, in to the wild wood and out in to the wide world in this joyous ingenious adaptation, of one of the most beloved classic stories.

**WEDNESDAY 10th, THURSDAY 11th & FRIDAY 12th at 7.30pm**

SOLIHULL URC, WARWICK ROAD, SOLIHULL, B91 3DG

ADULTS £14 | CONCESSIONS £12 | FAMILY RATE £45

**BOX OFFICE: 0121 705 6762**

## **JACK'S REPORT IS IN**

Can I just check that everyone has taken the opportunity to look at the display about building issues at the back of the church. If you haven't please make yourself aware.

Over the last few newsletters I have been asking you to formulate your views about our buildings and how we use them and how we might want to use them in the future. Only a few people have taken the opportunity to tell me their thoughts. I would like the rest of you to engage in the conversation as it will have a long implications for our church. I am going to both of our Fellowship Groups to listen, but if you don't belong to one of those, either come along specially, or catch me for a conversation at another time.

We have begun consulting outside our congregation, as I told you in the last newsletter, inviting Jack Marris, a Christian building consulting friend of mine to come and look around. I received his report, about the Sanctuary area only, before Christmas and the Elders and I will be looking at it together at the next Elders meeting. It is not a plan that we will implement but a document to allow us to say 'yes, we like that idea.' Or 'no, that wouldn't work for us.' We will begin to make more widely known the bits that we might like to explore further, in due course. If you would like to read the whole report I can email it to you, just ask.

Keep thinking, keep praying, keep talking. **Linda Faber**

## **REQUEST**

*This request has come from the Solihull URC website.*

In 1966 I visited Solihull with a group from the United Church of Christ, Geneva, Ohio. I am searching for the family I stayed with and unfortunately do not know the name. I am hoping someone in your congregation might remember the group & can help me locate them for a long overdue apology.

Thank you, **Leslie Thackwell**

## FLOWERS

Do you enjoy the flowers each Sunday? Is it good that we can send them to someone who is unable to come to church? If you answer yes to both of these questions perhaps you could offer to bring in a bunch to stand on the Communion table for our worship and then to be taken out to a friend who needs cheering up!

We really need your help and you do not need to be a good flower arranger, just a willing shopper, who can put a bunch of flowers in a vase. This request is for men as well as ladies!! There may even be help available. Please let me know if you can help with this worthwhile task. Thank you. **Trixie.**

## OLI UPDATE

Hi everyone,

For the moment anyhow I think this is the final update – and the good news is that Oli is home! Exactly three weeks after the dreadful attack by four men and attempted murder by one.

Three weeks ago my 19 year old eldest grandson Oli was in a coma, on full life support and with brain damage in intensive care at the QE hospital. He had had a huge operation to remove part of his skull, as his brain was swelling so much after the vicious attack.

Amazingly - and thanks to the marvellous care he received at the QE and the many prayers that have been said for him in 7 different churches - Oli has far exceeded the expectations of his medics and is recovering at home. He is still on pain killers and now wearing a medical helmet to protect his brain where bone has been removed but his life was saved. Oli still seems the same gentle intelligent character he was before the attack and, as yet the brain damage, though clearly visible to medics on the scans, is not very evident if at all to us as family. Even his sense of smell seems to have returned!

We, as family, are so very grateful - as you can well imagine. Grateful for the amazing medical team at the QE – the nurses, doctors, the physiotherapists and all the other support staff.

But also so very grateful for all the support we have received at this very upsetting time: the countless messages, cards and all the prayers that have been said in the last 21 days for Oli. I honestly think this is a modern day miracle and one to be celebrated. Thank you everyone – the words seem inadequate. No words can possibly express our gratitude and relief. Oli has a big operation to face later this year when his skull is reconstructed but meanwhile he is home – and already looking forward to going back to work and carrying on with his accountancy studies - when he is well enough!

God bless you all and thank you so much, **Carol**

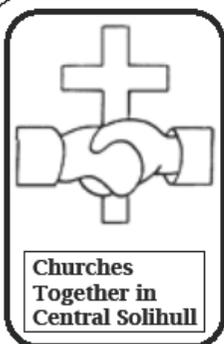
### **EDITOR'S POEM**

#### ***Triolet III***

Yes, my dear Lord, I've found it so;  
No joys but thine are purely sweet;  
Other delights come mixt with woe,  
Yes, my dear Lord, I've found it so.

Pleasure at courts is but in show,  
With true content in cells we meet;  
Yes, my dear Lord, I've found it so;  
No joys but thine are purely sweet.

Patrick Carey (1624-1657)



# Walk of Witness

**Good Friday  
19th April 2019**

**Please join us from 11am by St Augustine's Church,  
1 Herbert Rd, Solihull B91 3QE.**

**Please bring a Palm Cross with you if you can.**

The Walk of Witness will silently follow a route along Station Road and High Street to Mell Square, and then on to St Alphege. We encourage people to join our short acts of worship especially in Mell Square. Please join us on the way if you cannot come to the start.

This is the main opportunity each year for an open act of worship from people in all the churches in Solihull, to give witness to our Lord.

The Walk of Witness should finish by 12.15pm at St Alphege and will be followed by **Coffee and Hot Cross Buns in the Oliver Bird Hall** nearby in Church Hill Road, to which everyone is invited.

## **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - CENTRAL SOLIHULL**

I recently received the following letter from the Mayor of Solihull and thought I should share it with you all. The next service will be in our Church in March 2020 when we will be thinking about Zimbabwe.

**Judith**

Dear Judith,

Thank you for inviting me to the World Day of Prayer Service recently; I had such a wonderful time that I thought I would write to show my appreciation and gratitude for the invitation.

I was made to feel very welcome and the service was so enjoyable and interesting; it was a pleasure to be there. Would you please thank everyone for looking after me so well and all those involved in putting the service together.

Thank you once again and may I wish you all at World Day of Prayer continued success in the years to come.

Kind regards,

Councillor Mrs Flo Nash

**Mayor of Solihull**

## KEY CONTACTS & INFORMATION

### **Minister**

VACANT

### **Church Secretary**

Mr. Gordon Justham: 07540 289855 - 01564 776229 -  
gordonjustham@talktalk.net

### **Website**

[www.solihullurc.org.uk](http://www.solihullurc.org.uk)

**Hall Lettings** in Hobs Moat or Christ Church – 07925 573259

**Generations Project** - enabling the Church in care homes

[www.generationsssolihull.org.uk](http://www.generationsssolihull.org.uk) [generationsssolihull@icloud.com](mailto:generationsssolihull@icloud.com)

### **Moments**

Mondays 10am—12 noon@ Christ Church

### **MAY NEWSLETTER**

Material for the May edition

Is due to Stuart Mills: 07931 614393

[stuartkmills@gmail.com](mailto:stuartkmills@gmail.com)

by Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April please.